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# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1897.

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## ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF MARINE MAMMALS.\*

### I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

MOST of the recent writers on Geographical Distribution have confined their attention to terrestrial mammals, or, at any rate, have but casually alluded to the marine groups of that class. On the present occasion I wish to call your attention to some of the principal facts connected with the distribution, over the world's surface, of the marine, or aquatic, members of the class of mammals.

Aquatic mammals, which pass their lives entirely, or, for the greater part, in the water are, of course, subject to very different laws of distribution from those of the terrestrial forms. As regards aquatic mammals, land is, of course, an impassable barrier to their extension, and, subject to restrictions in certain cases, water offers them a free passage. Just the opposite is the case with the terrestrial mammals, to which, in most cases, land offers a free pas-

\* Read before the Zoological Society of London on March 16th.